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AN  
ADDRESS  
TO THE  
PRINCIPAL INHABITANTS of the CITY of BRISTOL,  
On the ENORMOUS INCREASE of the POOR TAX  
IN THE SAID CITY.

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A N  
A D D R E S S  
TO THE  
Principal Inhabitants of the City of *Bristol*,  
O N T H E  
ENORMOUS INCREASE of the POOR TAX  
I N T H E S A I D C I T Y ,  
*WITHIN THE FEW LAST YEARS.*  
POINTING OUT THE  
C A U S E S of such I N C R E A S E ,  
WITH SOME  
O B S E R V A T I O N S  
Which may tend to REMEDY THE EVIL IN FUTURE.

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B Y  
I. C O O K E,  
Late DEPUTY GOVERNOR of St. PETER'S HOSPITAL.

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## ST. PETER'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL.

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THE enormous increase of the most burthensome Taxes in this City, for some years past, has given just ground of complaint to the Citizens in general, and to Traders in particular.

An investigation of the causes and cures of these evils has engaged my close attention for a series of many months past; the result of which I beg leave to submit to the consideration of the Public.

About twenty-five years ago, the annual assessment for the Poor of this City, did not amount to 6,000*l*. In the years 1782, 1783, and 1784, it amounted to no less than 14,000*l*.—so immense an increase of these, and other parochial and parliamentary Taxes, within a few years, must be severely felt by all Housekeepers; but *Tradesmen*, and *Shopkeepers*, who are under the necessity of occupying Shops of high rents for the convenience of business, feel it most severely.—By these grievous levies, the profits of trade, their only means of subsistence, are diverted to other purposes; while very little of the dear-earned wages of their industry remains for their *personal* uses.

The advanced price of Provisions—the stagnation of Trade—the increase of Paupers—and the negligence of many officers, have all contributed to raise the Poor-Rates to their present height.

Under

Under these circumstances, what can every well-wisher to the Public do better, than by his timely assistance endeavour to lessen our grievances and lighten our burdens? To further these laudable designs, *Enquiries, Reforms and Regulations*, have been made of late within this House, and their salutary effects have been materially felt already; for within the space of sixteen months, there has been a very considerable saving to the public, as will appear by the accounts annexed. Much greater advantages may yet arise, from the vigorous interference of Magistrates, and of the Corporation of the Poor.—If therefore they are disposed to unite, in a general reform, I would with the utmost deference and respect, recommend the following measures to *them*, as well as to the *Tradesmen—principal Inhabitants—and Church-Wardens* of this City.

To *Tradesmen and principal Inhabitants*, I would warmly recommend their employing the *Poor of the City*, in preference to Strangers: for notwithstanding the decrease of many branches of Commerce in this City, there yet remains sufficient to employ *its own Poor*. Were this attended to, it would be a great saving to the City; but instead of preferring that *our own Poor* should enjoy these benefits, great numbers of them are unemployed, and reduced to the necessity of becoming burthensome, of starving, or of stealing; and *that bread*, which should have comfortably fed *them*, is put into the mouths of *Strangers*, who are *suffered and encouraged*.—Of the persons employed on the Quay and on the Back, the *major part* are Strangers; and the number of Shoemakers, who are non-parishioners, is great beyond conception. Now, were a *just distinction* made between *Citizens and Strangers*, and the preference given to the former, the latter would of course be obliged to remove, and leave the poor industrious Inhabitants.



in possession of their Rights, and our Taxes would necessarily be much diminished.

To the Inhabitants of every Parish who have a Right to be present, I urge the expediency of attending when the Rates for apportioning the respective Taxes are made: by this means, they will be able to judge whether the Monies required are necessary? For it is well known, that Way-wardens have frequently made out their Rates, *much higher* than there was occasion for; and when they have closed their offices, considerable balances have remained in their hands for several years together, unaccounted for.

I would also warmly recommend to the *Church-wardens* of the respective Parishes, to enter the Landlord's name in the Parish Rate: by a strict attention to this rule, many poor Tenants will not be able to gain settlements in this City; for according to Act of Parliament, it is necessary for every Tenant, occupying a house under the annual rent of *Ten Pounds*, not only to *pay* the Rates, but also to have his name *entered* in the rate-book, in order to constitute him a Parishioner.

A subject of reform, which pressingly claims the exertion of Magistrates, is the suppression of disorderly houses in their particular Wards; for while these are suffered, innumerable evils are likely to ensue.—By their continuance, our streets are crowded with Prostitutes; their Bullies, are supported; houses are plundered; prisons are filled; Families are ruined; the morals of thousands are corrupted; their characters are lost; their lives endangered; and the inevitable consequence is, that the honest and diligent Citizen is burdened with taxes, which would not exist, if those haunts and nurseries of every vice were suppressed. About five months ago upwards of *eighty* disorderly persons,

persons, who had been preying upon the property and morals of many hundreds, were removed; and of near sixty Prostitutes taken up, *only seven* of them belonged to the City.—While Magistrates kept a watchful eye, many disorderly houses were shut, the streets were freed from those unhappy wretches, and the sedate Inhabitant, with pleasure, passed unmolested; but as soon as Magistrates relaxed in their vigilance, they returned to their former haunts, and resumed their destructive practices. The Officers of this House are frequently insulted in going by the residences of those Prostitutes, and defiance is bid to the Magistrates and Corporation of the Poor.—One instance I will give: An unhappy Girl, who came to the Hospital to swear a child, appeared very much distressed, at living in the unhappy course of life she did, and was very desirous of quitting it. I told her, I would send her to her family in the Country, who lived in good credit; and would write to them, to endeavour to prevail on them to take their repenting Relation home, and save her from further destruction.—This poor unhappy Girl was afterwards again inveigled into a house of ill fame. When informed of it, I sent an Officer of this House, to tell her that I wanted to see her, in hopes if she had came to me, I might have prevailed on her to go home. The answer he received from the Woman of the house, was, he should *not see* her, she should *not come*; and she also bid defiance, and told him, who the Officer was that supplied her with spirituous liquors, and that *he* would protect her.

For public satisfaction, respecting the internal management of this House, I shall subjoin a Table of a comparative view of the expenditure for its support during the four last years, as well as an average statement of the number of the Family during that period.

The





# THE COMPARATIVE EXPENDITURE

1782				1783					
PROVISIONS.									
Beef and Mutton	-	-	—	992	18	0	1082	19	6
Cheefe	-	-	—	370	14	6	282	6	0
Bacon	-	-	—	21	1	0	25	8	5
* Paid by the Matron in lieu of Bread and Cheefe	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Flour	-	-	—	751	9	0	971	19	3
Gruts and Oatmeal	-	-	—	46	13	5	90	6	0
Peafe	-	-	—	75	10	10	114	8	0
Salt	-	-	—	38	5	0	37	11	0
Garden Stuff	-	-	—	51	0	6½	50	5	4
Butter	-	-	—	21	15	7	21	1	0½
Malt, 1900 Bushels	-	-	—	486	3	4	660	5	0
Hops	-	-	—	24	0	6	49	18	0
Barm	-	-	—	19	9	0	6	18	0
Wine, Brandy, and Ale	-	-	—	10	12	3	10	0	10½
Milk	-	-	—	55	18	11½	34	17	4
Grocery	-	-	—	33	6	0	22	9	7½
Vinegar	-	-	—	6	16	0	4	12	6
Rice	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CLOTHING, &c.				3006	3	11			
Shoes	-	-	—	119	3	0	140	18	0
Leather	-	-	—	62	6	0	20	10	0
Linen	-	-	—	249	2	6	255	10	0
Haberdashery	-	-	—	24	14	0	12	3	0
Woollens	-	-	—	205	10	6	121	9	0
Hosiery	-	-	—	21	6	0	22	8	9
Breeches	-	-	—	—	—	—	5	5	6
Twine, Wax, &c.	-	-	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Pattens	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Soap	-	-	—	54	13	0	37	4	0
Candles	-	-	—	10	10	7	11	1	0
5463 Horse Loads Coal	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tin Wares and Oil	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
REPAIRS.				682	2	0			
Tyler	-	-	—	88	11	0	36	12	6
Carpenter	-	-	—	116	13	6	40	3	6
Hooper	-	-	—	9	14	6	9	1	6
Masons	-	-	—	33	14	0	10	8	0
Plumber	-	-	—	8	10	0	—	—	—
Tradesmen's Notes paid by the Master	-	-	—	62	11	1	—	—	—
Glazier	-	-	—	—	—	—	15	18	0
Ironmonger	-	-	—	—	—	—	8	8	0
Smith	-	-	—	—	—	—	22	17	6
Pump Maker	-	-	—	—	—	—	3	0	9
New Furnace	-	-	—	—	—	—	3	16	9
Wheelwright and Chimney-Sweeper	-	-	—	—	—	—	3	2	10
				319	14	1			
Household Furniture	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire Wood	-	-	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1782				4362	2	7			
				56	19	11			
				25	18	6			
				4445	1	0			
							1783		
							4556	6	5

\* It will be natural to enquire the reason of the Matron's paying so much money for Bread and Cheese, as in the year 1782. It may be supposed it was bought out of the House, to supply the Family in the House: It was not; but it was bought of more than they could eat, it should not have been given them. Bringing the Article of Cheese into Bread, for every Loaf before. It appears that, in the course of one year and about eight months there were 65342 pound loaves of Bread bought which ought not to have been suffered. — The great expence of Flour and Cheese for the Year 1783, plainly shews there mu



URE OF THE FOUR LAST YEARS.

1784			1785		
£	s	d	£	s	d
949	10	6	467	8	5
200	7	1	119	12	0
24	4	0	—	—	—
116	10	11	—	—	—
545	11	6	—	—	—
672	2	5	534	5	0
154	8	6	45	17	6
36	4	6	60	5	3
43	0	10	23	0	0
20	7	5½	19	17	9½
523	1	6	13	15	2
14	8	4½	221	18	4
0	10	0	14	9	0
8	11	0	5	13	6
40	5	4½	3	15	8½
24	17	2½	19	17	7
4	11	0	11	4	0
18	11	5	1	19	0
24	12	0	24	12	0
17	10½		14	16	6
5	5		5	16	6
5	0		3	19	6
9	0		5	10	6
14	6		3	3	5
			9	3	6
			4	0	0
			0	6	2½
			4	16	0
			30	9	3
			5	16	9
			—	—	—
			—	—	—
			19	19	2
			13	11	6
			3	2	6
			3	3	0
			—	—	—
			17	5	11
			3	14	0
			2	13	0
			2	16	6
			8	9	3
			1	7	6
			—	—	—
			—	—	—
			76	2	4
			1832	13	2½
			4	0	2
			—	—	—
			1836	13	4½

near 1783 to the amount of £155 14 3, and part of the year 1784 £116 10 11, making in the whole £272 5 2. out of the people in the House. Why it was done, I am at a loss to know: for if it was a surplus of Provisions the Loaf was paid One Penny, to prevent their selling it out of the House, as had been, I find, always the custom and bought in by the Matron, to deliver out again to the Family, more than they could eat in that time; and there must have been a very wanton expenditure of those articles in that year.

*The Average of the nominal Family of 1782, 1783,*

Average of the <i>nominal</i> Family for the Year 1782 was	408	Average
		Add to
The House Expences for the Year 1782 -	£ 4445 1 0	This ne
		Expendi
		Add to

Average of the <i>nominal</i> Family for the Year 1783 was	420	Average
		Add to t
The House Expenditure of Year 1783	£ 4556 6 5½	This ne
		House E
		Add to t

Average of the <i>nominal</i> Family for 1784 was	- - 390	Average
		Add to t
House Expenditure of the Year 1784	- £ 3636 0 7	This exa
		Ditto of
		Add to t

Average of the <i>real</i> Family for 1785	- - - 325	Which u
House Expenditure of the Year 1785	- £ 1836 13 4½	lity in
		Expen
		1785

☞ From this Statement it is necessary to observe, That the Accounts at the thirty-first of March following.——The Abuses of the House began to be in cause of a very great diminution of the expences of that Year.



1783, 1784, and of the real Family for 1785.

Average of the *real* Family for 1785 was - - - 325  
 Add to this 81, its  $\frac{1}{4}$  Part, and the whole will amount to 406  
 This nearly equalizes the Families of the 2 Years.

Expenditure of Year 1785	-	-	-	1836	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Add to this its $\frac{1}{4}$ Part	-	-	-	459	3	4

Whole Amount	-	-	-	£ 2295	16	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
--------------	---	---	---	--------	----	-----------------

Thus supposing the Family to be equal in both years, the excess of Expence of the former to the latter, is no less than £ 2149 4 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ , which is about the whole expence of 1785, upon the above supposition.

Average of the *real* Family for 1785 was - - - 325  
 Add to this 94, its  $\frac{7-24}{25}$  Parts, and the whole amounts to 419  
 This nearly equalizes the Families of those 2 Years.

House Expenditure of 1785	-	-	-	1836	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Add to this the $\frac{7-24}{25}$ Parts	-	-	-	535	13	10 $\frac{1}{2}$

Whole Amount	-	-	-	£ 2372	7	3
--------------	---	---	---	--------	---	---

Here the excess of Expence in the former to that in the latter Year, supposing the Families to be same, amounts to - - -

£ 2183	19	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
--------	----	-----------------

Average of the *real* Family for 1785 - - - 325  
 Add to this its  $\frac{1-5}{6}$  Part 65, and the whole amounts to 390  
 This exactly equalizes the Families of those 2 Years.

Expenditure of the Year 1785	-	-	-	1836	13	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Add to this its $\frac{1-5}{6}$ Part	-	-	-	367	6	3

The whole Amount	-	-	-	£ 2203	19	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
------------------	---	---	---	--------	----	-----------------

Which upon the above supposition of an equality in the Families in both Years, makes the Expences of the Year 1784 exceed those of 1785 - - - - -

1432	0	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
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as at the Hospital commence on the first of April, and close on the 31st of March, to be investigated in the beginning of January 1784, which was the

The History of the National League of 1888

History of the National League of 1888 was a very important event in the history of the United States. It was the first time that the National League was organized, and it was the first time that the National League was recognized by the United States government.

The National League was organized in 1888, and it was the first time that the National League was recognized by the United States government. The National League was organized by a group of men who were interested in the history of the United States. They were interested in the history of the United States because they wanted to know more about the United States and its people.

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Perhaps it may be observed, that I have drawn this comparison in the expenditure, upon the supposition, that the Family for the former years was *real* and not *nominal*. It is true: but, that the Family for years past has been *only* a nominal one, I have not the least doubt; and, to prove my assertion, I will adduce an instance. A visiting Guardian signed his name in the Visiting Book, where the number of the Family is entered, to the number of 476 in the Family: afterwards, *the same day*, the Family was called over, and the whole number was only 405. The like evil, it is probable, has existed for many years; but it did not the last: for Mr. HAWORTH, one of the Committee (who deserves the thanks of the public for his great attention and assiduity in the House to prevent the abuses of it) called the Family over every week, and always compared them with the number entered in the Visiting Book.

Should it be asked, why the Family is reduced in its number so considerably to what it was in former years? I answer, that it is very uncertain what its number was in those years; but I will assign some reasons why they are *now less*. When the Committee of Enquiry went over the House, they found many persons there very capable of maintaining themselves; and of those who were so, twenty-four were dismissed from the House. Others, while they could live in idleness, were very content with their situation; but when put to work, they have frequently applied to be dismissed. Out of many of that description, I will give one instance:—A woman, brought from London with a pass, upon being conversed with about maintaining herself and child, a boy about twelve years of age, insisted upon coming in, alledging her incapacity to support herself

herself and child: she was taken in, and, in a few days, set to work; but she refused, saying, she did not come into the House to work: however, when she found she must work, she made application to go out, and promised to maintain herself and child; she was accordingly dismissed, and we have not heard from her since.

There are many instances of indolent persons applying for admission into the House, who would never quit it could they but live in idleness; but, when work is mentioned to them, they would rather go out and steal, than live well there on such conditions.

It may be supposed, that the prices of provisions for the year 1785 were lower than in the preceding years, from the great reduction on those articles; but this was not the case.

The contracts for supplying the House with provisions, &c. have always been made in the month of November, and continued to the November following, so that for seven months of my being in office, provisions were bought in at the prices contracted for the preceding year.

The contract for meat from Nov. 1782 to Nov. 1783, was 24s. per cwt.—From Nov. 1783 to Nov. 1784, 23s. 4d per cwt.—From Nov. 1784 to Nov. 1785, it was 24s. 10d. per cwt.

The contract for flour from Nov. 1783 to Nov. 1784, was 33s. per sack;—From Nov. 1784 to Nov. 1785, it was 36s. 6d. per sack.

Peas



Peas from Nov. 1783 to Nov. 1784, were 5s. 6d. per bushel; grutts 5s. 10d.—Peas from Nov. 1784 to 1785, were 6s. 3d. per bushel; and grutts were 5s. 6d.

The contract for malt from Nov. 1784 to Nov. 1785, was 4s. 11½d. per bushel.

When that term expired, the lowest prices given in to supply the House by contract for the ensuing year, were, malt at 6s. peas at 7s. and grutts at 6s. 6d. per bushel; meat at 24s. 8d. per cwt.

The Committee thought it not prudent to enter into any contracts at those prices, excepting for meat; and the event has proved they acted judiciously, as some of those articles have already been bought for less money; and there is a prospect of their being much cheaper than they are at this present time.

Thus it will appear that the prices of provisions in general were much higher than in the preceding years.

The contract for coal was, to supply the House at one shilling per sack of three bushels, made at and continued to the same time as the other contracts were. I had the coal always measured, in a three bushel measure belonging to the House, when brought in; but as soon as the contract ended, the person who contracted would not serve the House any longer, without an advanced price of one penny per sack, which was complied with, as no other person would supply the House cheaper, with the same quantity, to have it measured.

It may be imagined there must certainly have been a great stock of coal in the House when I came into office; but this is also a mistake, for the first week after I was chosen, coals were wanted for the use of the House.

If it be enquired, Why was there so great a difference in the consumption of that article? Indeed, I cannot account for the difference in this, or any other expenditure, but upon a supposition of great neglect in those persons whose duty it was to have prevented it.

It will be natural to conclude, from the small sum paid for linens, cloaths, shoes, &c. that the store-room must have been well stocked with those articles: So it was; as will appear by the following inventory of new goods left therein, after the Family was supplied the whole year out of it with every necessary, agreeably to annual custom, against the time of choosing new Governors.

## INVENTORY OF NEW GOODS

*In the STORE-ROOM, MARCH 31, 1786.*

- 97 Ells flaxen spriggs.
- 83 Ells ticklinburgh.
- 75 Yards 9-8ths brown sheeting.
- 1 Piece Stick dowlas.
- 37 Yards bed-tick.
- 4 Yards spriggs.
- 17 Yards Ruffia drab.
- 3½ Yards died duck.



60 Yards 9-8th wide North-country sheeting.

9 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards yard-wide Irish, at 1s. 5d.

14 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards ditto, at 2s. 3d.

10 Yards ditto, at 2s. 10d.

25 Yards long-lawn, at 3s. 2d.

11 $\frac{3}{4}$  Yards dowlas.

3 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards stitched Holland.

25 $\frac{1}{4}$  Yards  $\frac{3}{4}$  wide cotton check.

7 $\frac{1}{4}$  Yards yard wide ditto.

14 $\frac{3}{4}$  Yards 1 yard and  $\frac{3}{8}$  wide ditto.

13 $\frac{3}{4}$  Yards Ruffia huckaback.

7 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards hemp Ruffia, at

9 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards camblet.

33 Yards Heffens.

18 $\frac{1}{4}$  Yards 6-4ths wide claret cloth.

44 $\frac{1}{2}$  Yards druggett.

35 Yards blue serge.

9 Yards mix'd.

60 $\frac{3}{4}$  Yards flannel, at

5 Yards thick ditto, at

21 Girl's smocks, at

2 Large women's ditto, at

7 Small boy's shirts, at

9 Middle size ditto,

9 Men's ditto.

4 Brown aprons.

3 Check ditto.

13 Dowlas caps.

12 Long-lawn handkerchiefs.

305 Pair men's, women's, and children's shoes.

9 Pair middle-sized stockings.

- 5 Pair large white stockings.
  - 14 Men's worsted caps.
  - 4 Pair old blankets.
  - 6½ Ditto, new.
  - 3 Flannel shirts.
  - 3 Girls' striped coats.
  - 6 Boys' jackets.
  - 2 Girls' ditto.
  - 7 Tin saucepans.
  - 3 Tin kettles.
  - 11 Hand brushes.
  - 8 Scrubbing ditto, with handles.
  - 13 Mop-sticks.
  - 6 Brushes for blocks.
  - 10 Pail brushes.
  - 1 Bucket.
  - 7 Sieves.
  - 12 Wooden bowls.
  - 3 Dozen spoons.
  - 10 Tin cans.
  - 14 Pounds soap.
  - 8 Pounds candles, (eights.)
  - 26 Pounds rush lights.
  - 19 Pounds match ditto.
  - 3 Linen quilts.
- Sheets in wear, 489 pair.
- 

It may be asked, Why were such quantities of goods brought into the House when they were not wanted? Indeed, it can  
neither



neither be accounted for or justified, as it is directly against the standing order of the House.

The expences of the repairs of the House, with proper attention, I am persuaded, may, in future, be considerably lessened to what they have been for several years past.

The Poor do not in any Poor-House, Work-House, or Hospital in the kingdom, established on a plan similar to St. Peter's Hospital, live better than the Family in that House: from what I have seen in some, and the information I have obtained respecting others, very few, if any, live so well.

The provisions in general are of the best quality, and much superior to what the Poor themselves commonly buy for their families.

I could wish, that some respectable persons, as well as the Guardians, would call in frequently, to see the goodness of their provisions, the comfortableness and cleanliness of their different wards, the cleanness of the linen, &c.

Let the same persons go to the houses of the labouring Poor, who have families of three or four young children, and whose earnings are from ten to fifteen shillings per week; they will see them in general extremely dirty, not much to eat, in many of their families the food they have exceedingly bad, and in many of their houses no beds for their children to sleep on.

I will suppose a man earns twelve shillings per week, and has a wife and four young children to support, (but there are  
thousands

thousands who do not get so much ; ) if the man's whole wages be expended in provisions for his family, they would not have as much in quantity, or as good in quality, as they would were such a man, his wife, and four children in the Hospital, and to have the allowance of it : For it is very certain that the number of persons contained in such a family now cost more money for their support, (exclusive of cloathing and rent, which must be paid by those out of the House) tho' the provisions, which are better, and laid in very considerably cheaper than can be bought by such Poor out of the House.

A great deal of very illiberal abuse I received during the time of my continuance in office. Anonymous letters were sent me, conveying the most insulting and opprobrious language, threatening, that, if I continued pursuing the measures I had adopted, my destruction was determined on. Two persons came to my house, and informed me, that two men, who were determined to take away my life, waited for me one evening in a street I went through ; that I passed them ; but as they were not certain that I was the object of their malice, I was suffered to escape.

Notwithstanding every obstacle that stood in the way to prevent my persisting in the due execution of my office, conscious of the rectitude of my conduct, I was not intimidated from persevering in the line of my duty during my continuance in it.

I will endeavour to explain the *pretended* cause of this enmity. The Poor on the Pay-bill are such persons who, from their advanced age, or bodily infirmities, are likely to receive relief during the remainder of their lives. This description of Poor  
consists



consists of between 900 and 1000; of those, during my time of being in office, I did not take off or lessen the Pay of any, but from well-grounded information that there was reason for so doing; and of that number, there were not twelve taken off, or their pay lessened, in the course of my year.

Therefore, the Poor on the Pay-bill could not have reason to complain, because they received the *same Pay*, during my continuance in office, as they did when I came into it. But the great enmity against me proceeded from the *Casual Poor*, who come under the description of persons who, from sickness, largeness of their families, or want of employ, have temporary relief for a time, till the causes are removed; but they are never satisfied: After once being on the books, if not continued when the cause they were put on for has ceased, but the Pay they received is taken off, they are then sure to speak all manner of evil, and very frequently make use of the most abusive language, which I have frequently experienced.

The very many impositions on this House that have been, and were constantly attempted to be made, by numberless persons who were not objects of relief, took up a large part of my time, in endeavouring, as much as it was in my power, to detect and prevent their iniquitous practices.

I will adduce two or three instances, from among innumerable others, which occurred during the time of my being in office.

A woman, who had pay for herself and four children for years, came to the Court at the Visitation, and brought two of her

her children. She was asked, where her other children were? she said they were ill of a fever. One of the officers of the House was sent to see whether her report was true. The answer he brought was, that the other two *supposed* young children were both in Newgate for thieving.

Another woman (and many instances there were of this nature) applied for relief for her husband, who she said was very ill in bed of a fever, in great want, and must perish if not immediately relieved. Instantly an officer was sent to see and relieve him, if her account was true. On his making enquiry at the House where they lived, the man was neither ill, nor at home; but the officer was told by a person in the house, that if he was not at work, he might be sure to find him at a public-house.

Many women, having sons from the age of ten to twelve years, received relief for them. Being asked why they did not get them employment? Their answer has been, that they had endeavoured to do it, and could not; but should be glad if they could, even for the Pay they received of the House, to keep them out of idleness. I have often told them, I would employ them, and give them the same wages per week as the money they had from the House to support them, until they could do better for them. Of between twenty and thirty boys under this description, the mothers of *only two* of them accepted my offer: as to the others who would not, I took off their pay; and the city was eased thereby of the unnecessary burthen of supporting such idle persons.

*These*



*These* have been the causes of my being represented as every thing that is bad ; but, from the convictions of my judgment, I could not suffer such impositions on the public, because in times past they had not been sufficiently looked into ; for to such neglect may be attributed the great increase of the poor tax.

There are many poor families relieved by this House, who have a far more comfortable support than a great many other families in the city who have estates in houses. I will produce an instance. About seven months past, a man, his wife, and five small children, were sent here by a pass, he having gained a settlement by renting a house in this city, and having lived in it but a short time, when he first came ; and, I believe, neither of the children were born here : the man, soon after he came here, died ; the wife and children became immediately chargeable to the city. Four of the children were put to nurse at eighteen pence per week each, which is the pay for all children sent out of the House ; the mother and youngest child were taken into the House. Allowing only two shillings per week each for the mother and child, amounts to four shillings per week, and six shillings per week for the children at nurse, the whole amount is ten shillings per week, which is twenty-six pounds per year. A great number of families are relieved by this House, which cost the city more than from twelve to twenty pounds per year. I have no doubt but there are very many persons with families in the city, who have one or two small houses of their own, the rents of them not more than from six to twelve pounds a year. Now suppose a widow with a family of small children (and there is reason to suppose there are many such) possessed of a house or two of that description,

tion, they cannot support their families as well as those who are relieved by this House, because their income is not so much as is received from this House by many with similar families; altho' when their husbands were living, their circumstances might have been very comfortable: but they cannot be relieved, let their necessities be never so pressing, without first parting with their little estate; and yet *they* are burthened with taxes, to relieve those, who live *better* and more comfortably than they can possibly do themselves.

The amazing sum paid for the relief of the Out-Poor of this city is very alarming, and has been a growing evil, which ought to be remedied, and may in future be done by attention to what I have before recommended.

The propriety of the above remark will appear by the following statement:

Paid by the Church-Wardens of the different parishes in the city to the Poor on the Pay-Bill, from the 25th of March 1784 to the 25th of March 1785, -	£	4604	12	6
Paid by ditto to Casual Poor, from ditto to ditto, - - - - -		2459	14	0
Paid by the Master for the Relief of Casual Poor at the House, from ditto to ditto,		1404	7	0
		<hr/>		
		8468	13	6

This is a sum, considerably more than three times as much as was raised for the support of the Out-Poor, and maintaining the Poor in this House, for many years after its establishment.

It



It is certainly the interest of all persons having estates in houses in this city, to endeavour to lessen the burthens of taxation as much as possible; for people in general, when they are about to take a house, after they are informed of the rent, enquire to what the taxes will amount; and when the taxes are very heavy, the house will not let for as much money as it would were the taxes more easy.

For instance, supposing a house now lets for fifty pounds per year, I think I do not exaggerate when I say, if the tenant pays all the taxes, they will amount to twenty-five pounds per year. I believe that fifty years ago, a house of fifty pounds per annum did not pay, *in the whole of its taxes*, to the amount of five pounds per annum.

From the above comparison is clearly shewn the necessity to reduce the burthen of taxes, as much as possible; for if our taxes were no more now, than they were fifty years ago, a house that now lets for fifty pounds a year would let from sixty to seventy, and, even then, the tenant would not pay near so much, including rent and taxes, as he does now.

The statement, as under, of the expences of the three last years, will convince the public, that the endeavours made use of to stop the very rapid increase of the Poor tax, so long complained of, have been attended with some success.

The expences of the year 1782, for the support	£			
of the Poor of this city. was	-	14479	12	0½
The expences of the year 1783, for the support				
of the Poor of this city, was	-	14651	1	9½
Ditto, of the year 1784, for ditto, was	-	13690	8	8
				The

The expences of the year 1785 cannot be ascertained until the Church-Wardens have settled their last half year's account. I am very certain it will be considerably under £11000 0 0

There will be in the Treasurer's hands, and what the Master will receive, when the ballances are all paid in to the 1st of April, more than £2400.

The sum assessed on the city for the year 1785, was £12,000; but as there will be so large a sum in the Treasurer's hands, the sum of £11000 will be full sufficient for the present year, and a sum adequate to every expence of it, in purchasing those articles which may be of advantage to the House with ready money.

I hope the Guardians of the Poor will not relax in their zeal for the public good, in prosecuting what has been begun; nor stop in any other object which may require their interference. I am sure if they discharge the trust reposed in them, with fidelity to the city, they will be traduced by persons devoid of merit and principle: had I listened to the clamours of such worthless tongues, the citizens at large would have suffered for it.

I trust that, on the most minute enquiry, it will be found that honour and equity guided my measures; and tho' I may lie under the lash of the malevolent and uninformed, I am persuaded I have the plaudits of every impartial and unbiaſſed citizen; and I can, with truth, declare, that my conscience acquits me of having acted on any other principle than a strict adherence to the duties of my office.

I cannot



I cannot conclude these remarks without observing, that the thanks of the public are justly due to Sir JOHN DURBIN, the late Governor of this Hospital, for his great care, attention, and assiduity in the execution of his office; for to the countenance which he afforded me, and to the exertions of the Gentlemen of the Committee, who are also entitled to the thanks of the city, are the public chiefly indebted for the reform which has taken place in this House. As far as concerns myself, I should be wanting in gratitude, was I to neglect this opportunity, publicly to return my particular acknowledgments to Sir JOHN DURBIN, for the support he was always pleased to give me in my arduous office; and for the very polite treatment I constantly received from him: at the same time, I wish to express the high sense I have of the obligations I received from the Gentlemen of the Committee, in the assistance they gave towards enabling me to fulfil the duties of my office.

JUNE 7, 1786.

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